Message Text

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O R 051726Z JUN 75 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0103 INFO USMISSION NATO

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CORRECTED COPY PARAGRAPH THREE

E.O. 11652: DOWNGRADE TO LOU UPON EXCHANGE OF NOTES

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC

REF: STATE 126149

- 1. SUMMARY: QUAI AGREED TO MOST CHANGES SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. REGARDING METHOD OF PAYMENT, QUAI WOULD PREFER TO DELETE REFERENCE IN NOTES, AND HANDLE BY LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR RUSH. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S URGENT APPROVAL SCENARIO AND TEXT DESCRIBED BELOW. END SUMMARY.
- 2. QUAI (DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS) AGREED JUNE 4 TO MINOR MODIFICATION IN NOTES AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL PARA 3. QUAI ALSO AGREED THAT LIST OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS UNDERLYING THE U.S. CLAIM HAS NO LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR U.S. BILATERALLY BUT IS SOLELY INTENDED TO MEET THE FRENCH CONCERN DESCRIBED IN PARIS 7522. FRENCH AGREED TO INSERTION OF "BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS" AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL PARA 4.
- 3. WITH REGARD TO TREATMENT OF METHOD OF PAY-MENT, FRENCH WOULD PREFER TO DROP ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN NOTES, SUCH AS SENTENCE SUGGESTED IN REFTEL PARA 2.

THEY WOULD PREFER TO DESCRIBE METHOD OF PAYMENT IN SEPARATE DOCUMENT, SUCH AS LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR RUSH TO MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES. ACCORDING TO QUAI, ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENT COULD REQUIRE COMPLICATED QUAI CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER AFFECTED FRENCH MINISTRIES TO DETERMINE EXACT MANNER OF HANDLING PAYMENT. TEXT OF DRAFT LETTER TO BE SENT BY AMBASSADOR RUSH -- WHICH HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY QUAI AND BY EMBASSY (AD REFERENDUM) ON JUNE 5 -- FOLLOWS IN PARA 7 BELOW.

- 4. QUAI AND EMBASSY HAVE TENTATIVELY BOOKED LATE AFTER-NOON OF THURSDAY, JUNE 12 FOR FINAL SIGNATURE OF EXCHANGE OF NOTES BY FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND AMBASSADOR RUSH. QUAI ASSURES US THAT JUNE 12 SIGNATURE DATE (WHICH SEEMS TO BE EARLIEST TIME AVAILABLE ON SAUVAGNARGUES' SCHEDULE) WILL PERMIT FRENCH PAYMENT TO BE DEPOSITED BY END OF JUNE.
- 5. GOF DOES NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON FRELOC BUT RECOGNIZES THAT U.S. MAY WANT TO ADVISE THE U.S. CONGRESS OF THE FINAL EXCHANGE. QUAI HOPES, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL HANDLE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THIS EXCHANGE IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT DOES NOT PROVOKE POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING PUBLIC DEBATE OF THIS SUBJECT IN FRANCE.
- 6. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO SIGN U.S. REPLY NOTE AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL PARA 5, DELETING THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "THE PAYMENTS SHALL BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE US TREASURY ACCOUNT NO. 19X6035."
- 7. TEXT OF LETTER WHICH AMBASSADOR WOULD SEND TO FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES ON SAME DATE AS SIGNATURE OF NOTES TO SPECIFY METHOD OF PAYMENT FOLLOWS: "DEAR MR. MINISTER: IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOTES WE HAVE SIGNED TODAY REGARDING THE FINAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISIONS REACHED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN APPLICATION OF ITS AIDE MEMOIRES OF MARCH 10 AND 29, 1966, WHICH LED TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL, SUPPLIES, AND EQUIPMENT FROM FRENCH TERRITORY, I REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE MAKE ITS ANNUAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAYMERTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY DEPOSIT TO THE CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES DISBURSING OFFICER, REGIONAL FINANCE CENTER, AMERICAN EMBASSY, PARIS, AT THE MORGAN GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, 14 PLACE VENDOME, PARIS."

8. EMBASSY REQUESTS WASHINGTON'S APPROVAL OF ABOVE SCENARIO AND LANGUAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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